"Out Standing In Our Field"
Ken Barry
Broker
705-754-5280
ken@kenbarry.com
Jacquie Barry
Realtor®
705-457-0652
jacquie@kenbarry.com
www.kenbarry.com
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

County Life
Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands
DECEMBER 4, 2025

HALIBURTON TIMBER MART
AIR MILES
Helping you build better since 1968.
THE DESIGN EXPERTS
FREE DELIVERY
5148 County Rd. Haliburton
705-457-2510
haliburtonlumber.com

SUBARU

MINDEN SUBARU
13061 Hwy 35, Minden,
705-286-6126
www.minden-subaru.ca

Seeing in the dark
How to adjust to evening hikes on page 4

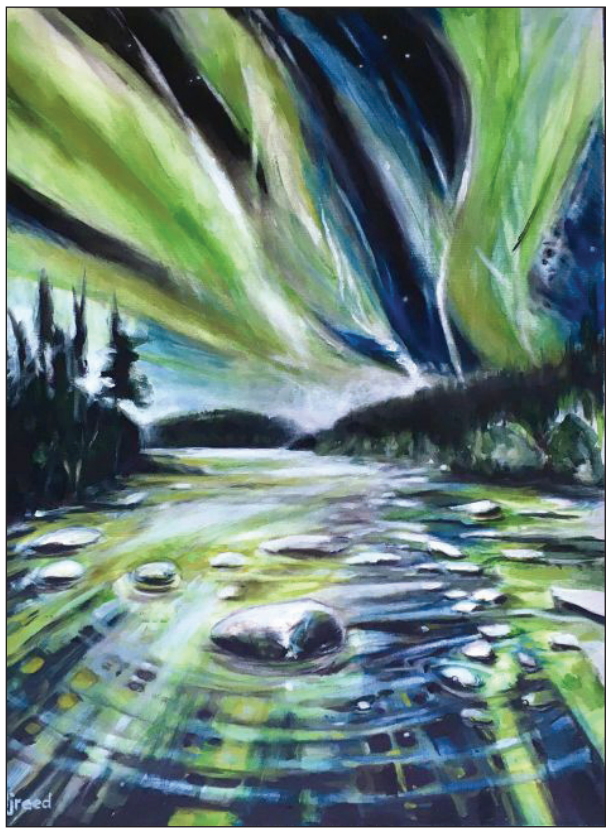
A visit from Christmas Past
Remembering sweet holiday moments on page 9

Cookies for a cause
Decorating for the community on page 14

The annual Nutcracker performance is kicking off this weekend. Pictured, a past performance at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. /FILE

December 2, 2025 - January 5, 2026
Bennett's
Celebrating 99 Years
Marlaine Bennett, 3rd Generation Owner
with her dog Mia Bennett

30% off Accessories!*
Save 30% off all regularly priced accessories.
*See in store for details.
LET IT SNOW



Good grief

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

THIS EXPRESSION first appeared around the early 1900s to paraphrase religious exclamations. Most of us now associate it with Charles M. Schulz and his 1950s comic strip, *Peanuts*. Iconically-insecure character Charlie Brown uttered 'good grief' when experiencing mild despair. He felt it extra-strongly, which helped normalize human sensitivity in popular culture.

Despair never feels good. To anyone. But we don't get through lifespans without it. Unfortunately, everything's also normal about true grief. Discussing it might help, along with time and contemplation. It's a common theme among the arts. To suffer with sadness is universal, and to manage it is always a challenge.

To lose loved ones might bring the hardest grief. Its experience manifests through many stages, and rarely dissipates, if ever. It moves through levels which visit and revisit, sometimes in unexpected order at unexpected times. It's vital for everyone to respect its process, to receive it, to speak its name, and to do so safely, both privately and in public.

We may sometimes seem ok. But we might also appear forgetful, less familiar to others, unable to concentrate, physically unwell. We can help each other because we should. Grieving is a valid pain response, and when we struggle, others will understand. We might seem lost in thought, edgy, hyperactive, or needing quiet. We might be ok one hour, but not the next. We might seem to need nothing, and then, everything. We teach each other a lot about being alive.

No matter how old we get, missing our parents is usually a given. Aromas, melodies, calendar dates, artifacts - we'll walk forever with family associations inside us. When grief shifts periodically to gratitude, we smile with memories. We use those to influence extra meaning along our own paths. Our descendants already watch us, noting our priorities, words and actions, learning our authenticity, and carrying forward the love that comes out of living.

When songbirds are singing 'all the wrong words' (from folksinger Johnny Flynn), it's a time for both loneliness and hope. We expect a lifetime to bring us a spectrum of pain and joy. Prepping our children for inevitabilities is gently foundational. There are more resources than ever around death. Families and schools can thoughtfully open life discussions through media, introducing allegories and metaphors which hope to represent every passage of regular experience. To acknowledge a child's grief, whether over pets, pals or family members, is to open gifts of empathy and respect. The gifts of humanity. Ask a librarian for good book and film choices.

Empathy allows us to feel others' feelings. Art allows us to share them. Charlie Brown was an observer, a transparent philosopher, and contradictory 'everyman' who was intended to symbolize a classic member of life. Sad, but hopeful. Solitary, but substantial. Puzzled, but persistent. Introverted, but genuine. Judged by peers, but patient despite them.

Popular culture exemplifies itself through countless icons, animated, childlike, or otherwise. All of us are parts of everyone else. Although it hurts, from grief comes goodness too.

Up River Trading Co.
PLEASE JOIN US FOR
LADIES **SHOPPING NIGHT!**
Thursday, December 4. Doors open until 8:00pm.
At our HALIBURTON Up River store.
Enjoy **IN-STORE SPECIALS**, **HOLIDAY TREATS**,
and **DOOR PRIZES**.

RIVERVIEW
FURNITURE & FLOORING
Hours
Mon. to Sat.
9 am - 5pm
Sun.
10am - 3pm
"This Week's Special"

Make a Lifetime of Holiday Memories Around a Handcrafted Table from Riverview Furniture

FLOORING
Think Riverview
VISIT OUR 1000 SQ FT SHOWROOM
dedicated to all types of flooring and carpet available by 10 different suppliers which gives you an amazing selection to choose from all at great pricing!
Be Sure To Follow Us Online!
705-286-3167 • 94 Bobcaygeon Rd • DOWNTOWN MINDEN
info@riverview-furniture.com • www.riverview-furniture.com

CountyLife
The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Canadian Tire
Foodland *
Home Hardware *
Kinmount Pharmacy *
Minden Valumart *
Rexall *
Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *
Todd's Independent *

**All inserts are to selected distribution areas.*

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Ice fishing gear, then and now

STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

WE HAVE not only just reached December, but there are signs that the ice fishing season is not as far off as the emerald shiners would like it to be. Pond and shallow lakes are starting to freeze. More importantly, anglers like me are now starting to decide upon which new ice fishing gear we are going to add to the collection.

This pre-ice fishing preparation has always been a part of the process. But it was not always so complicated.

For instance, back in the old days, state of the art ice fishing gear consisted of a willow gad, some fishing line, a spud, a ladle, and a hook. If you were one of those fancy ice anglers, you'd go so far as to add a one-gallon bucket to the list.

Then, things went crazy.

That's right. Soon anglers began increasing the bucket size so they could turn them over and sit a bit higher on them, and now, here we are using five-gallon ones. Having a bucket with that much storage capacity, was the beginning of the problem. First, even if you got all fancy and had three willow gads and several hooks, and some line, you still had enough room in the bucket to remove the meal worms you were keeping warm in your mouth, and have plenty more room to spare.

At the same time, no one wanted to carry a bucket and all that gear, so we started "borrowing" our kids' sleds for the entire ice fishing season, which did not sit well with them or our spouses or kids.

This led to the development of ice fishing sleds which were basically the same sleds, except that the ice-fishing sled engineers included state-of-the-art, ice-sliding technology just for us, which made them far more expensive. Which is why we never let the kids borrow them.

Of course, we kind of looked stupid towing a sled with just a five-gallon pail and a spud in it. So, in an effort not to look as silly, we developed the earliest "fish finders" – live bait. Live bait was a game changer because it meant we needed an insulated minnow bucket because, have you ever tried to keep a dozen emerald shiners warm in your mouth? It is a stop-gap measure at best. A minnow bucket made the sled look more necessary.

Keeping your minnow bucket warm forced us to create ice heated huts which required ATVs and snowmobiles.

There I some question by ice fishing scholars as to what came first, the ice hut or the snowmobile or ATV? I say the vehicles came first and the ice huts were built immediately after, because early ice anglers needed a place to sleep after they announced that they spent all the family's vacation money on a snowmobile or an ATV.

Now we have portable ice huts so we cannot be so easily found too.

Somewhere along the line, we also realized that it was better to drill a hole in the ice with a hand auger than make our boots open-toed models with a spud.

Naturally, this led to power augers, which we first bought after convincing our spouses that they were power blenders when combined with a one-gallon pail.

That, and other advancements, leave us in the here and now, looking for the next great thing to make our ice fishing experience even better.

The eternal question is what to get an ice angler who has everything?

I'm thinking a six-gallon bucket.

Does food get stuck in your dentures? ~ We have the solution for you!

Steve Kerr
DENTURE CLINIC

- Complete Dentures
- Partial Dentures
- Same Day Repairs & Relines
- House Calls

143 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, ON
stevekerr.denturist@gmail.com
stevekerrdentureclinic.com

CALL NOW TO BOOK A *FREE* CONSULTATION! 705.286.4888

GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE

Ladies Night

Thursday, December 4th
5 to 8pm

30% OFF

Entire Store!

Free Draws,
Refreshments and Treats

GLECOFF'S
FAMILY STORE
HALIBURTON 705-457-2715

GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE

Naturally Yours

Take a walk on the dark side!

HENRY DAVID Thoreau once resolved to go on more night walks to "make acquaintance with the other side of nature." As the big fall dimmer switch slowly lowers the availability of natural light, the darkness naturally nudges us towards our electric light world, however, walking at night can be very rejuvenating, granting us a fresh perspective to familiar places.

RICK WHITTEKER
Naturally Yours

When we enter a dark place, the pupil of the eye opens to allow as much light into the retina as possible. It takes less than a minute for the pupil to fully dilate, so we see quick improvements to our night vision. However, the rod-shaped and cone-shaped photoreceptors in our eyes take more time to adjust. Cones are responsible for fine detail and colour. Light is necessary for cones to function at their best.

Rods are responsible for dark and light and need very little light to function. They do not register colour, so, at night, we see everything in a gray scale. Heavy hitters in low light situations, rod receptors incrementally adjust taking several hours in darkness before optimum nighttime vision is achieved. Any contact with artificial light, even a short blast of

see page 5

/Carol Moffatt

Naturally Yours

from page 4

car headlights, a headlamp or cell phone will impact your night vision, forcing your eyes to restart their darkness adjustment.

Most cones are clustered in the centre of the eye. Rods dominate the periphery. This explains why, at night, when you stare at an object close by and straight ahead, it will seemly disappear because cones function poorly in low light. Objects viewed just off the centre of your vision and in your periphery will appear clearer at night.

All animals have rod and cone photosensors in their eyes, however, the quantity of each varies between species. For example, with a scarcity of rods, chickens can't see at night and must roost before dark. In comparison, owls can fly and hunt in almost complete darkness due to an abundance of rod sensors. One receptor is sacrificed for another; chickens have excellent colour vision and owls see mostly in monochrome.

Many animals who move around at night also have a reflective membrane behind the retina called the tapetum lucidum. Acting like a mirror, it bounces light back to the retina to help with night vision. Driving at night, when you see the glare of a roadside "eye shine", it is your headlights reflecting off the tapetum membrane.

Humans do not have a reflective membrane in our eyes, so our surroundings appear softer with less definition after dark. Familiar landscapes lose their crisp detail and are transformed into more subtle shapes and shades. Like an injury to a team's star player, other senses rise to the occasion when our sight is diminished. Walking feels more tactile. Sensitivity to gentle breezes and changes in humidity elevates. Smells seem more intense and sounds are amplified. A small scampering critter can spark the imagination, mutating into something much bigger. Ultimately, you become more attuned to your surroundings.

However, most people feel uncomfortable walking after dark. Evolution of our species depended on the acute functioning of all senses. Over time, we leaned on our vision while our dependence on our other senses waned. Hence, when our vision is limited, we can feel anxious or unsettled. Furthermore, darkness has become a metaphor for evil and depression, partially fueled by societal messages fertilizing this fear through books, movies and other media.

If just starting out with night walking adventures, to make it less intimidating, consider the following suggestions:

- Know your route. Walking on a known trail or track will feel more familiar.
- Try to avoid light. Plan your route around areas without artificial light.
- Take someone with you. There is comfort and safety when with those you trust.
- Take it slow. Things will feel different at night. Give your eyes time to adjust.
- Bring a headlamp or flashlight … but try not to use it.
- Pick a good time to walk.
- Watching the sun set before starting your walk is a gradual approach to darkness.
- Late evening hikes, without a moon or clouds, will allow the majesty of the stars to shine.
- Full moon walks, especially in the winter, are magical opportunities. Bathed in moonlight, snow crystals can look like diamond dusted soft ice cream.

After the afterglow of twilight has receded, there is no curfew keeping you inside. The setting of the sun is an open invitation to get outside and maybe learn something new from familiar surroundings. Try it … you might just see the light of walking after dark!

BARRY MISCIO CONTRACTING
BMC
We Take Pride In Our Work!
• Homes & Cottages
• Garages
• Renovations & Additions
• Interiors & Exteriors
• ICF & Block Basements
• Concrete Floors
• Decks, Roofing & Siding
• Fully Insured
Haliburton County Home Builders Association
705-754-4603
Cell: 705-457-0553
barrymiscio.ca
TARION

McFadden's
MEAT MARKET
Order Your Fresh, Free Range, Antibiotic-Free, Grain-Fed Turkey For the Holidays
23 Hops Dr. Haliburton 705 457 1919

Lisa Mercer Broker
Cell 705-457-0364
www.lisamercer.ca
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
Don't keep me a secret!

SOLD
Shop and use you Gift Certificates Before December 13th
Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
Cell 705-457-8511
www.lyndalitwin.ca
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

The Ultimate in Professional and Personalized Service
Terry Carr
Sales Representative
705.935.1011
Terry@MovingTheHighlands.com
MovingTheHighlands.com
Moving the Highlands
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
Brokerage - independently owned + operated
Box 1010, 12621 Hwy 35
Minden, ON K0M 2K0

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
12621 Highway 35, Minden
beside Subway Restaurant
follow us!
REALTOR®
MLS MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE®
*Not intended to solicit properties or clients currently listed

ADVERTISE With us
Classifieds - Three papers, One Low Price!
Call 705-457-1037 or 705-286-1288
Weekly ad deadline: Thursday 4 p.m.
Your classified word ad will appear in all three papers
The Echo Haliburton County · The Times Minden Ontario · County Life
$15 plus tax
For up to 25 words.

Editor's Thoughts

Jennifer McEathron, General Manager, Sales
Emily Stonehouse Managing Editor
Steve Galea, Contributor
Laura Smith, Paul Banelopoulos Ad Sales
Classifieds, Inside sales
Karen London, Production Co-ordinator
Stacey Potalivo, Production

146 Highland St., Box 360, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705 457-1037

Website: www.haliburtonecho.ca
Box 97, Minden K0M 2K0
Phone: 705 286-1288
Website: www.mindentimes.ca

Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

County Life is produced by The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times, and published by White Pine Media Corp. Audited circulation: 6,372 July 1 - Dec 31, 2015

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

The view from my window

NOW I am not one to suggest scrolling social media. There are a wealth of other things you can be doing. Crafts, reading, playing outside, or even wistfully looking out your window.

But what about someone else's window?

While I was on Facebook the other day, I stumbled across an account called "The view from my window".

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

The page has over two million followers, and is quite literally what it sounds like; a number of shots snapped through peoples' windows. Some photos are top notch, high quality. Others are a little blurry and out of focus; professionalism not on the forefront to qualify for space on the page.

And I found myself captivated.

There were pictures from Bosnia, Denmark, Norway, England, Czechia, Australia, to name a few. There was representation from every Canadian province and territory, as well as a healthy smattering of American states.

Sometimes the photographer captured something breathtaking and unique; northern lights, a sunset spanning across ocean waves, a gathering of wildlife on a front lawn.

Other times - and these were the ones that really struck me - it was a mundane shot of a foggy day outside their window. A blurry shot of a squirrel teasing an indoor cat. One shot highlighted a decrepit playhouse; the photo taken through a window, on an angle. The photographer said he looks at the playhouse every day, and while he has regularly thought about taking it down, he can't seem to do it. It was built by his father, for his daughter. While his daughter is grown now and his father long gone, whenever he looks at it, he sees the joy of them together.

It was a grainy photo; one that wouldn't be nominated for any awards or celebrations.

But that photo told a whole story. So much of the world is curated and cut and copied. Seeing grainy photos of someone else's view is a breath of fresh air in an age of stagnation.

When we look out our windows, we see a frame for our lives. And while the day to day monotony of what ticks and talks in the outside world may seem monotonous at times, to others it is a world unto itself.

One poster shared an image of a sweet doe looking through the window; an image I see myself quite literally every day. And while we may not all see eye to eye on the great deer debate, we share a space in the world with them. We may view them as pests or quite simply a bore from seeing them so regularly. But to the rest of the world, this was captivating. The comments poured in; people from all over the world marveling at the magic of the deer.

I was also reminded that there is a world past our own windows. I personally had no concept of what Bosnia looked like. I could not picture Egypt this time of year. I had not considered a sunrise in Norway.

But for a brief moment, I could see the world through someone else's eyes. And while the world feels tumultuous at times, there was something humbling about knowing that there are millions in this world who choose to take a moment to share a slice of their lives through their windows, and the stories that accompany that view. It connects us, it reminds us that we're human, it allows us the unique opportunity to see what life looks like in other corners of the world, and it celebrates the beauty in the every day.

So tell me, what's outside your window?

Top 10 ways never to be invited to another party

WE ALL love parties. Most of us do our best to have memorable social interactions with the interesting people we meet at them. Almost every etiquette columnist will tell you what to do and how to act to be a popular guest at a party. But few delve into the things you can do so you are never invited to another party for as long as you live.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

So, here are the top 10 ways never to be invited to another party again.

1. Walk in, look physically uncomfortable, immediately ask where the washroom is, and station yourself beside it the whole time.
2. Bring a Twister board, set it up, and begin a series of elaborate stretching exercises.
3. Wear a complex costume and angrily yell, "Darn it! I thought this was a Hallowe'en party!"
4. Bring your entire Tupperware product line.
5. Step to the centre of the room and declare, "Emmanuel Kant was a liar! Prove me wrong!"
6. Keep muttering, "Remember, what happens at fight club, stays at fight club…"
7. Respond to every statement with, "I know you are, but what am I?"
8. Walk into the washroom and yell at the top of your lungs, "Oh no! Not again!"
9. Subject other partygoers to a lengthy dissertation of lesser-known South American bird calls.
10. Introduce yourself to everyone as "A Vastly Superior Being."

Revisiting

Rope of River tugging me back toward that place I used to know,
clouds bruising Sky, as the orb of Sun blinks between the bare branches of trees, sinking into the hills,
my eyes tracing the curves of their spines, as I lope along the pebbled shore, listening to the River flow, louder than I remember,
or maybe I didn't listen deep enough back then, all those decades ago,
when the pine saplings fringing the shore brushed just past my knees as I bent down to ruffle their heads,
now the trees are middle-aged like me, and I crane my neck up to greet them, pulling my coat collar up against the Wind,
watching the tops of pines sway, how I long to stay longer here, instead of just passing through,
a walk along the riverbank to inhale Wind and blow out the bluster that swirls inside me,
the shadow-coloured, shadowless River that flows alongside me, keeping me company as I walk, revisiting the place I used to know,
the days unfurling slower back then, the future sprawling wide as Sky above me,
the silhouettes of endless hills, a buffer between the River and the world that whirls beyond it,
how many hundreds of hours I spent walking along this River's edge, resting among the stones and rocks littering its bank,
the hills rising in the distance, stilling my thoughts, as I gawked up at a gull or hawk, its wings circling Sky, around and around,
wondering what prey it was stalking from up there, waiting to swoop down where I sat with a book,
or some days, just reading Sky and the clouds that pass by, like strangers you never see again,
but remember the words they dared to share, the stranger that passes me now, on the path that winds along the River,
nodding as I mumble Hello, the stranger pausing to peer out at the hills, and listen to the current of River flow,
maybe murmuring to them in the same way that it calls out to me, pulling me back to the freedom of my youth,
all those decades ago, when Time seemed to meander as effortlessly as the River, and I didn't feel the rush of it like I do now,
dusk cloaking Air, as I pause like the stranger to stare out at the hills like I did back then, wondering what lay beyond them,
these hills that never change, remaining solid and still, while the bluster of the world swirls all around them,
this River that snakes its way each day and Night, without reprieve, its skin glistening as dusk devours the husk of day,
remains of my youth fossilized into the rocks where I sat and dreamed and wondered about a future that seemed so far away,
the pebble of Moon rising over the hills, gleaming cold and hard and bright,
its light veiling the silhouette of the stranger that walks along the River's edge,
and I wonder whether they're revisiting a place they used to know, searching for slivers of themselves they left behind,
or maybe this River and these hills are the only place they've ever known, watching the saplings grow into middle-aged trees,
rooted to this patch of earth, as Wind blows through their branches, roaming the riverbank,
searching for Home.

Sylvie Kalenda

Here comes Santa Claus

The Haliburton Lions Club and the Haliburton BIA drew a full crowd to the annual Santa Claus Parade at the end of November. The one-hour evening parade had plenty of lights and festive cheer for everyone, and included a visit from Santa himself. /Adam Frisk staff

Calling all elves!

Once again, the Haliburton Echo and Minden Times will be showcasing the elves of the community. Do you have an Elf on the Shelf who has returned this year? One thing we know for sure is that these elves love to see themselves in the newspaper!

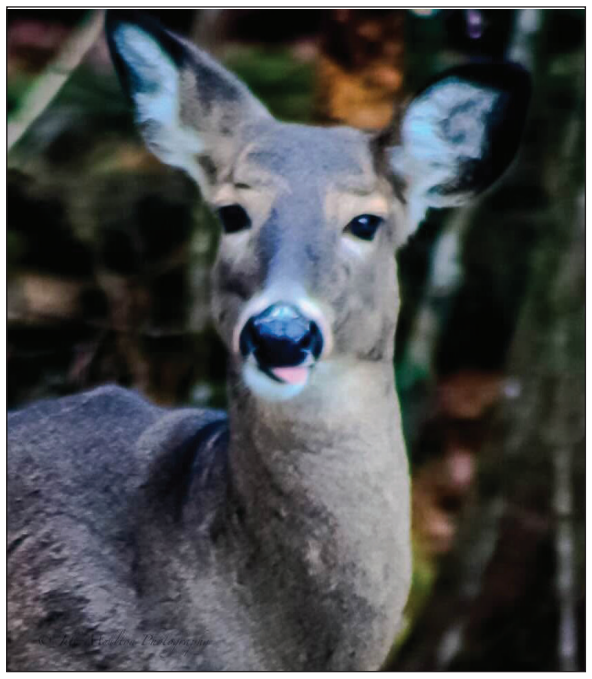
Send pictures of your Elf on the Shelf and the adventures they get into to **emily@haliburtonpress.com before Dec. 19**, for a chance to feature your family friend with our readers.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT!
Haliburton Rotary Community
Christmas
& Skating Party
Friday, December 12th, 2025
Bring the Whole Family for an Evening of Festive Fun!
Skating Music Hot Chocolate Pizza & Treats Games Face Painting
Presents for all the kids! Bring your camera for a picture with Santa!
AJ LaRue Arena, Haliburton:
SKATING: 5pm – 7pm
Enter to Win
1 of 6 Turkeys!
Draw to be held
at 7:30 pm
Royal Canadian
Legion, Haliburton:
CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITIES
+ Face Painting
6pm – 7pm
PIZZA & GOODIES:
6pm – 8pm
VISIT SANTA:
7pm – 8pm
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
SPONSORED BY: THE ROTARY CLUB OF HALIBURTON

Nature in your backyard

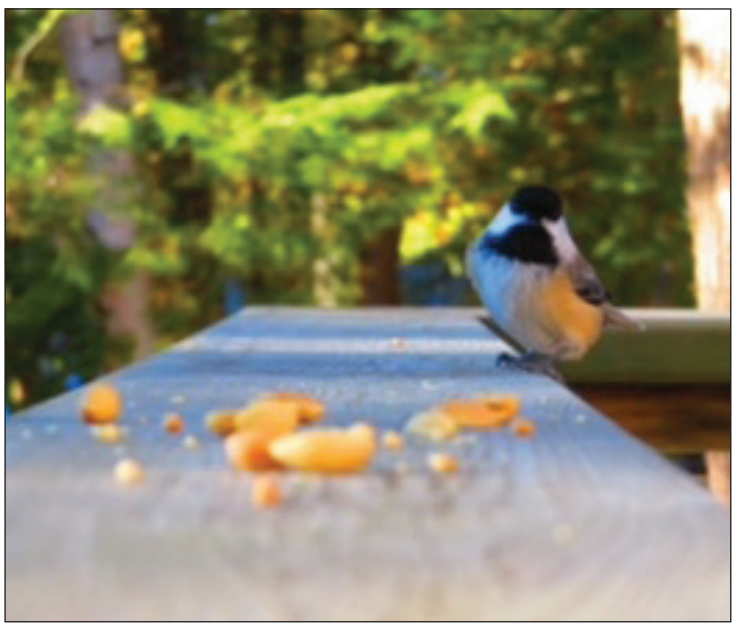
County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Bold blue jay by Tammy Nash



Sweet doe by Jill Moulton

Turkey vulture by Randy Barber



Chickadee by Maggie Lawrence

A chipmunk friend by Vivien Mausz

Fort Irwin in the snow by Randy Barber

Indigenous and Multicultural Communication Services

Become a Preferred Vendor

The **Supply Ontario** seeks proposals from highly qualified, experienced vendors to provide indigenous multicultural communication and marketing services to Ontario government ministries and agencies. Only Preferred Vendors will be invited to compete for projects as they become available.

To apply, go to www.ontario.ca/tenders, select Current or Published Opportunities, enter Project Info filter, click Go, enter Tender#, click Search.

Tender# 21224 for Indigenous and Multicultural Communication Services (projects $30,300 or more)

Supply Ontario

Barred owl by Tammy Nash

Writing on the Senior Side

Christmas Little Things

GAIL STELTER

County Life Contributor

Living on the Senior Side is an amazing gift, and although life can become more challenging, it is always about seeing and living the joy of this gift. There is much to explore, revisit and experience in Christmas Little Things. Journey with me through a few of these and kick-start your memories and your plans for your Christmas Little Things.

A Christmas craft sale

The Legion was filled with delightful handmade crafts: knitted mittens and crocheted blankets, wooden Christmas trees and light-filled Christmas decorations, toys for little ones, and a small sign that said "My room was cleaned last week. Sorry you missed it". We enjoyed delicious homemade treats: orange cranberry shortbread cookies and thick, rich date squares. Oh, I need to find that baker and place an order for our Stelter Family Christmas. It was a brief but lovely first Christmas, 2025 Little Things. (It was also my exercise, albeit a slow exercise as I walked and looked and admired.)

A church bazaar

The church hall was perfect for the Christmas Bazaar after Sunday mass. It had a tea room, handmade crafts and baked goods. Our little ones loved the bucket/basket raffle, where we bought each of them tickets and they walked around making careful decisions as they put their tickets into a basket or bucket beside the item they would like to win. Afterwards, I would take each child and we would look for gifts their brothers or sisters might like. My three-year-old daughter chose an inexpensive handmade cloth Frosty the Snowman for her brother, and my four-year-old son bought a similar inexpensive handmade cloth Santa Claus for her. I still have them and put them out every Christmas. It is such a sweet Christmas Little Thing memory.

Old time decorations

After my mom died, I found a little thing that she had kept for over 80 years. It was a Jack in the Box, no, a Santa in the Chimney, a plastic little toy that I got when I visited Santa in Toyland. I didn't realize she had kept it. Now I understand how Christmas' Little Things mean a lot, and bringing them out each year is a treasured memory. Peter had a similar experience, finding a long red ribbon Christmas card display/hanger that he had made in school that his mom kept. The yearly opening of the bin of decorations reveals little things my kids made: a beaded candy cane from Girl Guides, a crocheted tree garland, a paper plate wreath, and handmade ornaments made by a wonderful friend, one for each grandchild. What's in your bin? I am guessing you probably have some similar little things. Enjoy.

Christmas Story Books

I have a large and wonderful collection of Christmas storybooks. They don't seem to get read anymore, and I thought about giving them away, but no, I decided I will keep them. Each year, when the huge basket of books comes out, I look and read and remember. Perhaps I will give them to my first great-grandchild, or I will ask my four kids to choose some, and they can give them to their grandchildren. Books are my Little Thing treasures.

Giving little thing gifts

Being a teacher and principal provided a source of giving. We can give a little or a lot to people we don't know but need our help, and, in return, we receive the wealth of good feelings. The school family Advent Mass was held in the evening in the church. Each child or family brought their gift of unwrapped toys to the altar. The smiles on their faces said it all. Children love helping others, and we love fostering this.

One year, the parish priest received a large cash gift and came to me to ask about a family we might help. We knew their ages and likes, and with the permission of their parents, Peter and I and our two youngest children made a Secret Santa delivery. Another year, we put a Christmas tree in the front hall of the school and invited the children to bring a new pair of mitts to hang on the tree. "Warm Hands for Christmas" was born. I was able to carry this on with the support of Canoe FM. We collected mitts to give away. Many people brought mitts to the station, and Peter and I delivered bags full to all the schools, child agencies, and food banks. Thanks to Canoe for giving me this wonderful Christmas joy.

This giving continues with renewed senior side enthusiasm. My toy for the Canoe FM toy drive is on the counter waiting to be delivered. A box of food items awaits its turn to be dropped off at the food bank. Groups in our community have similar projects. SIRCH Gifts from the Heart is a perfect way to give. Through CFUW Halliburton, I will donate gift cards for teens and items for HERS (YWCA) Women's Shelter. There are always organizations and people who ask for help, especially at this time of year. I know I have not nearly mentioned them all. I hope you choose one that works for you. Not only do we thank them for all the great work they do, but also for giving us the incredible gift of being able to help others.

Christmas shopping

We loved Christmas shopping for our little ones. We went to Toys' R Us and Toy City. Oh, the fun of Cabbage Patch Kids, Care Bears, Star Wars, G.I. Joe and Transformers. Cabbage Patch Kids and Care Bears were difficult to find. Peter has a wonderful story to tell and remember. After going to the store to find only empty shelves where the Cabbage Patch Kids had been, he got a heads-up from one of the sales staff that a television crew was coming and a skid full of Cabbage Patch Kids would be put out when they arrived. He waited. He called me and asked me to bring a cheque so he could buy them. No debit cards in those days, and we did not use credit cards either. I drove from Milton to Mississauga with my little one in the back seat while the older three were are school. I passed him the cheque book through the car window and drove home, rushing to make sure I arrived home before my three children. Peter bought extras. He took Care Bears to our bank and gave them to one of the tellers who couldn't find them for her kids. His joy at this act of helping and giving made for a memorable Christmas. (He was also on the six o'clock news.)

We love shopping for our grandchildren. Oh, the fun of spoiling them! This has changed as they age. Joy comes from gift games and unique gifts. Joy comes from singing Christmas carols together, dance parties, family skating, the swim spa, family games, and outings.

Lights and bites

We sit in the dark with only the light of the Christmas tree, and we look in awe at the lights outside our home and up and down the road. The candy canes on the tree were not to be eaten until Christmas, except that at Christmas, there were so many other treats that they forgot about the candy canes.

We dressed in our Christmas best for the five o'clock Christmas Eve Family Mass, and we sang Christmas carols with Anne Murray on the way to and from our church. While we waited for Mass to start, our children went up to the nativity scene. The manger was empty waiting for baby Jesus. One Christmas, I was a "reader" and sitting up on the altar. Mass started, and I looked at my family, fourth row on the right, Peter and the two oldest were there, but where were the two youngest? I started to worry. The first hymn was being sung, and the priest and the procession were coming down the main aisle. Where were my little ones? I am looking at Peter, and he sees me but does not seem concerned. Then I see their little heads in the procession. They were chosen to carry baby Jesus and put him in the manger. Worry changes to heartfelt love.

After Mass, our Christmas Eve dinner was fun, food and treats, and chocolate sundaes for dessert. The evening concluded with the old and loved tradition of putting out the cookies we had made and decorated for Santa. With our children all tucked in bed, we faced the long night ahead: children so excited they couldn't sleep, and parents tired and plodding ahead with wrapping gifts and assembling toys.

Every senior has Christmas Little Things that bring smiles and joy. Your Christmas Little Things are unique to you. Bring them out, shine them up, eat the treats, sing the carol. Whatever your Little Christmas Things may be, grab the delight, enjoy the memories. Join me in giving thanks for the gift of yet another Christmas.

Ad Generously Sponsored by Haliburton County Life

Gifts for Kids & Holiday Hampers

Need a hand this holiday season? Sign up with your local food bank by Dec. 5th!

For more info, visit: FoodBanksHaliburtonCounty.ca

Highlands East
705-243-2419
Serving clients in Harcourt, Highlands East & Paudash

Haliburton
705-457-3010
Registration Starts Nov. 24
Call between 11 AM - 1 PM

Minden
705-286-6838
Tues, Wed, Fri Nov. 18 - Dec. 5
Call between 10 AM - 2 PM

CALL NOW!

Deadline to Register is December 5th

Not intended to solicit properties or clients currently listed

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
Brokerage, Independently Owned and Operated

4 SEASON GETAWAY

4 season getaway or vacation home that you can renovate & make your own? Charming 1970's home & property that would appeal to outdoor hobbyist, gardeners& naturalists w/ lovely 6.77 acresl. Close to snowmobile trails & lakes for 4 season activities! Main level incl. kit, eating area, LR, primary bedroom, bath & downstairs include laundry, bathroom , bedroom, storage, workshop & utility room. Rm. for 2 main fl. B.R.s if desired. Yr. round road & 20 min from Haliburton.

Deb Lambe
Sales Representative
705-854-0103
debra.lambe@gmail.com

NEW PRICE FOR THIS CUSTOM HOME

- Over 3000 sqft, 2 Acres of Land
- 3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms
- Main Floor Living
- Heated Floors in the Garage
- UPGRADES! UPGRADES! UPGRADES!

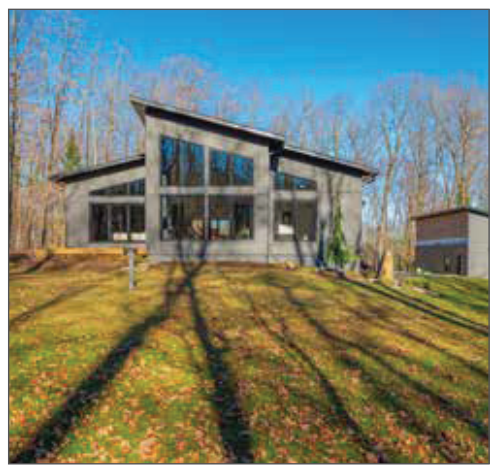
Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

1211 GELERT ROAD $1,200,000

- 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2019 Royal Home. Large deck surrounding home
- 49.9 Acres with trails
- Home is a dual heat system. Can use either forced air propane furnace or forced air wood boiler.
- 55'x24' shop or office with in-floor heating, steps from the house.
- More outbuildings and storage on the property, Heated greenhouse
- Minutes from Minden and Kinmount

Kelly Mercer
Broker
705-455-7500
kelly@kelly-mercer.ca

3777 GLAMORGAN ROAD $849,900.00



Custom built in 2020. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home. Open-concept with vaulted ceilings and large windows. High-end kitchen with Dekton counters, stylish cabinetry and plenty of space. Large bedrooms and bathrooms. Sitting on 5.95 acres just minutes from Haliburton. Full basement is partially finished. 24' x 30' detached garage. Great privacy and close to town.

Lisa Mercer
Broker
705-457-0364
www.lisamercer.ca
lisa@lisamercer.ca

613 MOUNTAIN ST $395,000

Immaculate & Cozy 3 bedroom home in the Village of Haliburton. Main Fl Bedroom with 4 pc Bath, 2 upper level bedrooms with ensuite Bath. Spacious Kitchen/Dining Area with Walkout. Full Basement. Walk to town for all amenities.

John & Marj Parish
John Parish 705-457-5485
Marj Parish 705-455-2211
Sales Representatives

319 BOUNDARY RD, MINDEN $220,000

Opportunity Knocks!
- 1.04 Acre Lot
- Uninsulated 32' x24' Shell with block foundation, doors, windows and roof installed
- 5 minutes to Rail Trail, Burnt River and Lake Access
- Ready for you to take it across the Finish Line

Cheryl Smith
Sales Representative
705-455-2500
info@cherylsmithremax
cherylsmithremax.com

2430 HADLINGTON ROAD $885,000

This custom built (2022) home offers serene privacy and breathtaking forest views. The warm, rustic interior features natural wood finishes. Expansive windows fill the space, inviting the outdoors in. Enjoy tranquil mornings on the deck, and peaceful evenings surrounded by the quiet beauty of nature in every season. Massive garage for a workshop with lots of parking for large vehicles. Just under 10 acres.

Sue Sotiriou
Sales Representative
905-715-4569
sue-sotiriou.remax.ca

HALIBURTON
191 Highland St., Suite 201
705-457-1011

MINDEN
12621 Highway 35, Unit 1
705-286-2911

WILBERFORCE
2260 Loop Road
705-448-2222

www.professionalsnorth.com
listings@remaxprofessionals.ca

10 MINUTES FROM HALIBURTON $519,000

1 1/2 storey private home with 2+1 bedrooms and just over 1500 sq. ft. of living space - galley style kitchen with plenty of storage space - freshly renovated living area with new pot lighting - w/o to font and side deck - main floor laundry with a 2pc. bath - 3 pc bath on 2nd floor - new plank flooring on second floor - w/o partially finished lower level - FA propane heat - 1.58 acres of privacy

Ted Vasey
Sales Representative
705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca

CUTE & COZY BUNGALOW $419,900

* Contemporary Open-Concept Design
* Main Floor Bedroom & Laundry
* Spacious Double Loft
* Partially Finished Lower Level
* Close to Beach and Lakes

Ken Barry
Broker 705-754-5280
Jacquie Barry
Realtor® 705-457-0652
www. kenbarry.com
Out Standing In Our Field

LITTLE GULL LAKE $629,000

Charming 2-bedroom, 1-bath cottage on Little Gull Lake, 10 minutes from Minden, featuring a private .89-acre lot with 120 feet of western-exposure waterfront for sunset views. The property includes updates like new windows, flooring, and a renovated bathroom. The deep, rocky shoreline is ideal for swimming, and the lake offers clear waters, jumping cliffs, and access to Queen Elizabeth parklands. Don't miss this one!

Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth
Sales Representatives
705-935-1011
MovingTheHighlands.com

SOLD!
In 24 hours over asking!!
VINCE **DUCHENE**
705 457 0046
EXPERIENCE, *It Matters*
Especially in a difficult market!
Call me for advice, I've got 39 years under my belt!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
from our house to yours
Rick Forget Broker 705-457-0580 • haliburtonhighlands-remax.ca

26 REID ST., KINMOUNT $648,000

Welcome to a very private, spa-like setting with many recent updates and MAIN FLOOR LIVING.
The perfect full time home or cottage.
• Newly renovated home
• Open Concept and Main Floor Living
• 3 bedrooms * 2 bathrooms
• Updated kitchen
• Living Room and Family Room
• Above-Ground Pool and Hot Tub
• Beautiful private lot

Jackie Hardman
Sales Representative
705-879-8041
jackiedhardman@gmail.com

SIRCH community services

Be the light...

Because of your generosity, last year you helped us provide 22,000 FREE, nutritious meals.

That NEED is growing!

SIRCH Meals are funded entirely by your donations!

Gifts *from the* Heart

Fundraising Campaign 2025

Please give what you can

www.sirch.on.ca/donate

Be the light...

SIRCH community services

Gifts from the Heart

Fundraising Campaign 2025

Our Mission:

Solving real problems. Strengthening rural communities. Creating connection and resilience - together

Our Vision:

Thriving communities where everyone feels connected and supported.

A Message from SIRCH Executive Director...

No one should be hungry here. Not in a community like ours.

Yet across Haliburton County and North Hastings, hunger is now a daily reality.
A parent quietly skipping meals so their children can eat.
A senior choosing between groceries and heat.
A young person living rough with no idea where food will come from next.

Food insecurity in Canada has surged almost **40% in two years** — and rural communities are feeling it most. Higher food prices. Long distances to the nearest store. Limited transportation. The struggle adds up quickly.

For SIRCH Community Services, responding to hunger has become a core part of our mission. And this community has proven what's possible when we take care of one another.
Because of your support last year, more than 22,000 nutritious meals and thousands of hearty soups were prepared and provided free of charge. Fourteen partner organizations helped distribute meals and ensure that those who were ill, single parenting, isolated, unhoused, or living with anxiety and depression were able not only to eat, but feel cared for.

One meal recipient told us:
"It was the first real meal I'd had in days. It gave me hope."

Behind every meal is a community effort: Donated fresh food from growers and grocers; Volunteers chopping, stirring, packaging with care; Donors giving so no one is left behind.

But hunger is growing. And so must our response.
As we plan for 2026, we're working to:

- Access more fresh food
- Expand preservation methods that don't rely on hydro
- Offer more free cooking and food-literacy programs
- Reach neighbours still falling through the cracks

Studies show **every $1 invested in community meals can return up to $4.40 in social value -** better health, less stress, and stronger community resilience. You helped make that impact possible here through your donations.

Now, we're asking for your support again. Be the reason someone eats tonight.

Donate at sirch.on.ca/donate

Gena Robertson
Founding Executive Director,
SIRCH Community Services

Our own team from the *Haliburton Echo* and the *Minden Times* were invited to decorate cookies for the cause. Pictured, Thomas Smith, Adam Frisk, and Emily Stonehouse. /photos submitted

Staff from the Noble Barber tried their hands at cookie decorating..

Smile Campaign continues to give back

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

Smile! The Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookies were back in the community at the end of November, where thousands of the festive treats were shared across the county.

Between Nov. 17 to 23, both the Minden and Haliburton Tim Hortons locations opened their doors to community partners and organizations to assist in decorating Smile Cookies. During the week, 100 per cent of the proceeds from the cookies were split between the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank, the Minden Community Food Centre, and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.

Approximately 30 local businesses partook in the decorating, each signing up for a time slot during the busy holiday week. "It means a lot to us," said Paige Chapman, the owner of the local location. "Everyone is so kind." In total, the campaign raised $13,570 over the course of the week, which translates to 6785 cookies sold. During the last holiday campaign, the local organizers raised $10,906.

For Chapman, Tim Hortons runs in her blood. She has been decorating cookies for as long as she can remember, with her dad running a Tim Hortons on the East Coast. Some of her earliest memories are decorating holiday cookies, and while she has worked her way through all the positions at Tim Hortons, including the owner of the local establishments for nearly one year, she always welcomes an opportunity to go back to her roots.

"This has been so fun," she said. "We're not from a small town, so it's been really cool to see people come together."

With local food banks hitting their season where need is at an all-time high, Chapman and her partner in business and in life, Mike Garland, made the decision to contribute the funds from the cookies right back into the community. While the summer cookie campaign focuses on sending kids to camp, the holiday cookie session allows for the opportunity to split up the funds raised with local charities in need. "By purchasing Holiday Smile Cookies at Tim Hortons in Haliburton and Minden, you are helping local families facing food insecurity," said Chapman. "It's one small act that creates a big impact."

"It's a sweet way to give back, and every cookie purchased helps ensure that families in our community have access to nourishing food during a time of growing need," said Jean Munroe, the manager for the Minden Community Food Centre. "Over the past three months, demand for our food bank has more than doubled, and food costs have soared beyond anything we've seen before. We're doing everything we can to keep shelves stocked and meals flowing, but we can't do it alone."

Munroe noted that she is seeing a dramatic increase in local job losses and a massive spike in food prices; all exacerbated by the holiday season." We're deeply grateful to Tim Hortons and to every community member who chooses to support us, one cookie at a time," said Munroe. "This cookie campaign is more than a fundraiser - it's a lifeline, and there is no better time to help than now."

HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES
Home Game
NORTH YORK RANGERS VS HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES
Saturday, Dec. 6 - 4 p.m.
Upcoming Home Games
Oakville Blades
Thursday, Dec. 18
7 p.m.
Mississauga Chargers
Monday, Dec. 29
7 p.m.
S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena
For more information please visit our website
WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

The Haliburton County Huskies visited the Minden Tim Hortons location to decorate some festive treats. /submitted

Hal High hockey returns to the ice

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Hockey and Haliburton are synonymous. It's part of our culture, part of our heritage.

Many people who grew up here recall playing hockey on the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) teams. Games were attended by community members; the bleachers filled with roaring applause and bristol board signs, cheering the local kids on.

But like many things, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, high school hockey was benched. It needed to be. The logistics were complicated, the shared spaces presenting too much overlap.

But the local Red Hawks are ready to fly again. "Things in this school, things in the community, they're back on the upswing," said high school teacher and head coach of the hockey team, Jason Morissette.

Morissette grew up in Haliburton. He went to Hal High himself, played all levels of hockey while calling the community home. He raised a family here, moved on to coaching his own kids, and has now been given an opportunity to bring the sport back to the high school. "They're excited," said Morissette, referencing the 21 boys who have made the team. "To be able to do something that's just fun and connects them with their school. We're going to see how we do, but we're mostly doing it just to have some fun."

While all the players have some experience with the sport, Morissette noted that their levels vary. The ages range from Grade 9 to Grade 12, which presents a unique opportunity for the students to step into leadership roles, both on and off the ice.

While the students all have hockey experience, out of the 21 players, 15 have never played a school team sport before. "They're becoming student athletes," said Morissette. "They have to follow our credo: respect, commitment, and responsibility." He noted that the opportunity to play a team sport in the community comes with a wealth of experiences unto itself. "They're off campus," he said, noting that they are playing in the Haliburton arena, as well as visiting other sites across the region. "They're going to learn how to be a part of that community."

Morissette shared that while there are a wealth of other sports available through the high school, the hockey team is the only one where contact is allowed. "There are many student athletes that excel at contact team sports activities," he said, "and that's something that some students are missing at HHSS as a possible playing opportunity."

With Morissette as the head coach, he's brought on Hal High alumni Nick Kulas as the community coach, Clay Glecoff as the goalie coach, Ray Rietvelt as the trainer, and Laura Kulas as the team's manager. Principal of the school, Jennifer Mills, has also been incredibly supportive in getting the team going.

Morissette noted the tremendous community support the organization has received so far. "We would not have gotten off the ground without the community," he said. While the school funds a portion of the costs around the sport, the team has also received sponsorships and alumni support, which assists in offsetting costs for the students. "That's what I love about Hal High, that's what I love about Haliburton County," said Morissette. "We want to see other people have these opportunities."

According to a recent Harvard study, three in four (77 per cent) of adults over the age of 30 who play sports today, started out playing sports as school-aged children. Only three per cent of adults who play sports currently did not play when they were young.

And with this lifelong interest starting at school age, Morissette believes the students will develop foundational skills they can carry through their lives. "It helps with connecting, it helps with behaviour, it gives them pride in their school," he said. "And it's all about having fun. That's why we're doing this."

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM
REGULAR SEASON 2025-26

Wed. Dec. 3rd	vs LCVI at Lindsay @ 1 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 4th	vs Adam Scott SS at HOME @ 2 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 11th	vs Campbellford SS at HOME @ 2 p.m.
Tues. Dec. 16th	vs St Pete's at Healthy Planet @ 1:15 p.m.
Wed/Thurs. Jan 7/8	St Pete's Classic Tournament @ Peterborough
Mon. Jan. 12th	vs Holy Cross SS at Healthy Planet @ 2 p.m.
Thurs. Jan. 15th	vs TASS at HOME @ 2 p.m.
Thurs. Feb. 5th	vs FFSS at Fenlon Falls @ 3 p.m.
Thurs. Feb. 12th	vs CCI Cobourg at HOME @ 2 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 18th	vs Crestwood SS at Cavan @ 3 p.m.

Feb. 23rd – 26th Kawartha AA Playoffs for top four AA school Qualifying teams only after regular season play.

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials every Friday starting at 5 p.m. May purchase special and eat in club room downstairs. Clubroom opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5:30 p.m.
Special events:
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting and 7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
3rd Sunday of the month Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (members only)
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 6 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Sunday:
Dec. 14 - L.A Breakfast $10. 9 to 11 a.m.
Monday:
Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Wednesday:
Dec. 3, 10, 17 Darts $5/player 2 p.m.
Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10. 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Open Cribbage 6:30 p.m. – No need to pre-register
Thursday:
Dec. 11 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday:
Dec. 5, 19 Wings and Jam Session $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
Dec.12 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, noon
Fish and Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20
Saturday:
Dec. 6, 13, 20 Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Dec. 20 Nacho Average Trivia 7 p.m. $5/Player
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-222

Hockley

NOW AVAILABLE AT

YOUR LOCAL CONVENIENCE STORE

NOT AVAILABLE AT YOUR STORE?
Please contact info@hockleybeer.ca

HOCKLEYBEER.CA

classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Thursday at Noon

County Classifieds

Classified Word Ad Special
25 Words
Your ad will run in
The Echo, The Times & County Life
Only $15 +HST

FOR SALE

THE WAIT IS OVER…Our award winning honey butter is back. Call Tom at Glass Eagle Studios or stop by to get yours. (Clover and Golden Honey, Creamed and Wax also available) **705-286-3628**
2801 Blairhampton Rd. in Minden.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Into the Blue Woodfired Pizza Business. Seasonal truck and catering business. Comes fully equipped and ready to go for the 2026 season. Contact info@abbeygardens.ca for more details and information

STORAGE

Indoor heated boat storage in Haliburton: $90 per foot for the season. Hydro provided. Call Brett at 647 405 0143.

FOR RENT

Newly renovated 2-unit house on 9.5 scenic acres near Haliburton. LOWER: 1-bed, 1-bath. Features open-concept living, new appliances, in-unit laundry and outdoor living spaces. 10 minutes from Haliburton & perfect for peaceful living. Contact: info@aboveboardcarpentry.com **705-455-2196**

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Meeting Space for Rent: Blue Sky Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright open space downtown with private entrance and washroom. Available for rent by the hour, half or full day. Contact: **705-457-3500** info@haliburtonchiropractic.com

FOR RENT

Large one-bedroom apartment available for rent December 1st. Single, mature, non-smoking tenants preferred. Fully furnished. Includes water access, private entrance, and 400 sq foot screened porch. 10 minute drive from Haliburton. $1700 per month. Includes hydro, heat, wifi, and parking. Seniors welcomed. Please call 705-457-0861. Pictures available upon request.

Bancroft - All inclusive rental 2 bedroom & 2 bathroom mini home with garage and basement, new build. Available January 1. $2,900. Call **613-334-0357**

Bancroft - 2 bedroom walkout close to town $2,800 all inclusive New Build Contact **613-334-0357** for more information Available immediately.

Bancroft -Two bedroom walkout unit $2,500 All inclusive. Contact **613-334-0357** for more information Available immediately.

WANTED

Wanted: scrap cars and trucks. Cash paid. Please call **705-286-3758** or **cell 249-332-1212**

SERVICES

Snow Blowing Walks and Drives,
Cottage Repairs + Renos
Call Mike Thomson **705-457-6365**

SAME DAY SCREEN REPAIR
Custom Screen Manufacturing, All Styles, Shapes & Types. Call or visit the **CARRIAGE HOUSE at *705-286-2994.***
www.haliburtonroom.com
Product of Canada

Professional Home and Cottage
Interior/Exterior Renovation and New Construction. Call Patrick
705-854-3989

Batteries & Generators
Batteries, all types; Truck, Tractor, Snowmobile, Motorcycle. Generators; Standby & Regular. PLUS Tractor Chains. 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097, KawarthaBattery@gmail.com

25 words. Your ad will run in The Echo, The Times & County Life **for $15 plus HST.** ***Call Us Today!***

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

CUT SPLIT & DELIVERED
seasoned firewood 90% maple/all hardwood. Very clean wood. Dry also available. CALL AND INQUIRE: **705-930-7198**

COMING EVENTS

Stained Glass Workshops. From beginner up. Registration open now. Learn the art of stained glass. Call Tom for details. 705-286-3628

Children's Christmas Gift Sale
St. Paul's Anglican Church
19 Invergordon Ave., Minden

Friday, December 5, 4pm to 7pm
Saturday, December 6, 10am - 2pm

Nothing cost more than $1

Children Bring your List to Shop for ...
Your Parents
Grandparents
and Siblings

Enjoy some "ME" time while our volunteers help your child shop. We wrap and tag gifts ready to take home and put under the tree.
Everyone is welcome!

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Film Screening of "Sons"
When: Thursday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
The film follows a new father from Newfoundland who wonders how to raise his son, at a time when the concept of masculinity is being called into question. No registration required. The film is provided courtesy of the National Film Board of Canada in collaboration with the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

Yoga for the Food Bank
When: Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, Minden
Donation Only Yoga Class. Calling all guys and gals to help. If you can stand or sit you can do this class!

Genealogy for Seniors
When: Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Dorset Library, or 1 p.m. at the Stanhope Library
Introduction to family history research led by Adele Espina, Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group, with support provided by the Government of Ontario. This workshop will walk you through the steps of building your family tree – from locating historical records to organizing your research and uncovering meaningful stories from your past.

Tech Help Walk-in Clinic
When: Friday, Dec.12 from 10 a.m. to noon
Where: Wilberforce Library
Stuck on a tech problem? First come, first served. Each person gets a 30-minute session with library staff to tackle one specific technology challenge. One session per person per day.

Hanukkah Storytime Party
When: Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Where: Dysart Library, Haliburton Village
Celebrate the Festiva l of Lights with stories, songs, and crafts that share the warmth and wonder of this special holiday. No registration required. All ages are welcome

Death Cafe
When: Saturday, Dec. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.
Where: Dysart Library, Haliburton Village
The holiday season can be a joyful time, but can also stir up feelings of grief, loss, and reflection. Join a comforting afternoon of open conversation, facilitated by Amanda Lytle, local Educator and Death Doula. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register. At a Death Café, people gather to share food,tea, honest discussion about death, loss, mortality, and the meaning of life. It's not a grief.

Recurring events

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Rm
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Second, fourth Tuesday each month 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Duplicate Bridge - Please arrange for a partner.
When: Wednesdays at 12:45 at Park Lane Apartments.
Fridays at 12:45 at Haliburton Legion, Schofield Room.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church, 617 Mountain Street

Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, all welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Friends of the HCPL Book Nook Hours
When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
Choose from a variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Bring a reusable bag. Payment is by cash donation. All money raised supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

Wilberforce Visitor Information Centre
When: Thursday to Monday 10 a.m. 4 p.m.
Where: 2786 Essonville Line, Wilberforce Curling Club
Mineral permission to collect forms, directions, geocaching information and GPS rentals, trails, events, and other general area information. Free Wi-Fi is also available.

Mineral Collecting - a fun outdoor activity
Adults and kids alike will delight in the chance to dig for buried treasure and bring home some colourful gems of your very own! Get a Permission to Collect form (free) from our website highlandseast.ca.

Local Service Directory

castle building centres **EMMERSON RENT-ALL**

Husqvarna STIHL

63 Maple Ave., Haliburton **Phone: 705-457-1550**
Out of Town Customers Call: 1-888-339-3325
email: information@emmersonlumber.com • www.emmersonlumber.com

Cottage Country Building Supplies castle building centres

15492 Hwy #35, Carnarvon
Phone: 705-489-2212 Toll Free:1-844-308-4212
www.cottagecountrybuildingsupplies.com

INNOVATE CONTRACTING

Home & Cottage Restoration • Renovation
Custom Carpentry • Project Management
Complete Interior & Exterior

Patrick McGregor 705-854-3989 pmmcgr@outlook.com

MYERS CHIMNEY
A Division of 2277341 ONTARIO INC.
• Sweeping • Installation
• Repair • Inspection
• Stove Glass Replacement
• Wood & Pellet Stove Sales & Service
WETT CERTIFIED
NATIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEP GUILD MEMBER
Sirocco 30hr burn time
Visit our showroom on South Lake Road
705-286-1245
www.myerschimney.com
Blaze King

KEGEL HEATING & COOLING
Tim Kegel
Bus: 705-341-9170
Email: info@kegelheatingandcooling.ca
• Geothermal Systems
• Furnaces
• Fireplaces
• Hot Water Tanks
• Air Conditioning
• HRV's
• Radiant Floor Heating
• Chimneys
• Ductwork
• Radiant Tube Heaters
• Gas Piping
• Boilers
• AND MORE

• Concrete Slabs
• Block & ICF Foundations
• Specializing in Foundation Sealing
D&K MASONRY
Derek Rowden
705-754-5372
dandkmasonry@msn.com
www.dandkmasonry.com
QUALITY WORKMANSHIP | Fully Insured

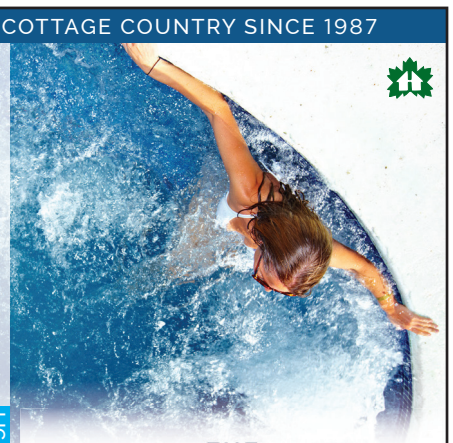
Celebrating Over 40 Years in the Haliburton Community
Sharp Electric
ESA Licence 7002795
COTTAGE • HOME
COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
Electrical Contracting & Services
Pole Lines
Hydro Poles
Electric Heat
Service Upgrades & Repairs
Back-up Generator Systems
Info@sharpelectric.ca 705.457.2640 sharpelectric.ca

CHAPMAN INSTALLATIONS
HALIBURTON, ON
TILE | NATURAL & VENEER STONE
LAMINATE | LVP | HARDWOOD
Jamie Chapman
Flooring Contractor
705-205-5078
chapmaninstallations0@gmail.com

SEPTIC & HOLDING TANK PUMPING & INSTALLATIONS
SHEPHERD ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
PORTABLE TOILETS, EXCAVATING
Year Round Service
YOUR SEWAGE SYSTEM EXPERTS
705.454.3744 or 705.887.1503
www.shepherdenvironmental.ca
YEAR ROUND PUMPING SERVICE

TOTAL SITE'S MECHANICS KEEP YOUR FLEET ROLLING — HOW?
MOBILE HEAVY EQUIPMENT REPAIR
MVI SAFETY & EMISSION TESTS
SNOW PLOW REPAIR
VEHICLE UNDERCOATING
GENERAL REPAIR & MAINTENANCE
GIVE US A SHOUT
705-457-9558

FRENCH
Septic Pumping
Septic & Holding Tanks Pumped
705. 457.1152
Mike & Laura Shepherd
Email: lshepherd@shepherdenvironmental.ca
Year Round Service

SERVING COTTAGE COUNTRY SINCE 1987
• Water Treatment Systems
• Winter Water Systems
• Well Systems
• Waste Water Systems
• Viqua UV Systems
• Heat Cables
• Hot Water Tanks
• Hot Tub Water Care Service
• Beachcomber Hot Tubs
• Marquis Spas
• Operations of Small Drinking Water Systems
• Limited Sub Systems
• Well Contractor
• Well Technician
LIC. UNDER M.O.E.

EST THE 1987
PUMP SHOP
WATER SPECIALISTS
5161 County Road 21, Haliburton, ON
ThePumpShop.ca | info@thepumpshop.ca
705.457.2638 | 888.312.PUMP

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THIS WEEK
Budget Blues
Local councils, schools and hospitals respond to cuts... 1 to 6

SPORTS
Tournament Thrills
Huskies see plenty of action.. pages 12 to 22

PHOTO PAGE
Santa's in Minden
It's a long way from the North Pole but Santa Claus made it... page 25

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
ECHO
The Voice Of The Highlands Since 1882

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1995 Vol. 113, No. 42 • 40 PAGES 75 cents (incl. GST)

Hospital layoffs deeper than staff expected

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Minden Hospital staff are "shocked" by staff cuts they say are far more severe than they had been led to anticipate by management.

In all, 10 full-time and two part-time positions were eliminated as of Friday when parent hospital St. Joseph's cut back the operating hours at Minden's emergency room by four hours to 12 hours a day.

Five of the full-time employees were given early retirement packages, while the other six full-timers and the two part-time workers were laid off indefinitely.

Though the employees were issued lay-off notices in June, the decision on which jobs would actually be lost "was up in the air" right up until Thursday afternoon — the day before the layoffs were to take effect, said Registered Nurse Gwen Hewitt, president of CUPE Local 2787, which represents the workers.

"There's a lot of hostility and anger and shock, I guess you could say, (among the employees), because there have been a lot of positions disappear that we didn't know of at all," she said.

As well as the Registered Practical Nurses, one RN and dietary and maintenance staff let go, both of the hospital's part-time clerical workers were laid off, raising the question of who will be expected to answer the phones and do all the paperwork.

"I suspect it will be the nurses," answers Hewitt. "The big question is who will do all the clerical work because I can tell you it won't be the nurses."

Laying off the clerical staff is one of the cost-saving measures management had never alluded to during prior negotiations, she maintained.

Facing a deficit of at least $100,000 this fiscal year, Foster Loucks, executive director of the Haliburton and Minden Hospitals, said management has been forced to spend its resources where it counts the most — patient care.

"Where Gwen (Hewitt) has concerns and, frankly, where I have some concerns too, is that we decided not to have any clerical workers," he said. "I've got concerns about whether the

See STAFF page 8

Cuts needed to get out of the hole: Hodgson

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

The only way Ontario can dig itself out of a financial hole where it spends $1-million an hour more than it takes in is to chop government spending by pushing schools, municipalities and hospitals to re-examine the way they do business, says Haliburton-Victoria MPP Chris Hodgson.

Last week, Finance Minister Ernie Eves delivered the shove they've all been bracing themselves for, announcing $6-billion in funding cuts over the next three years.

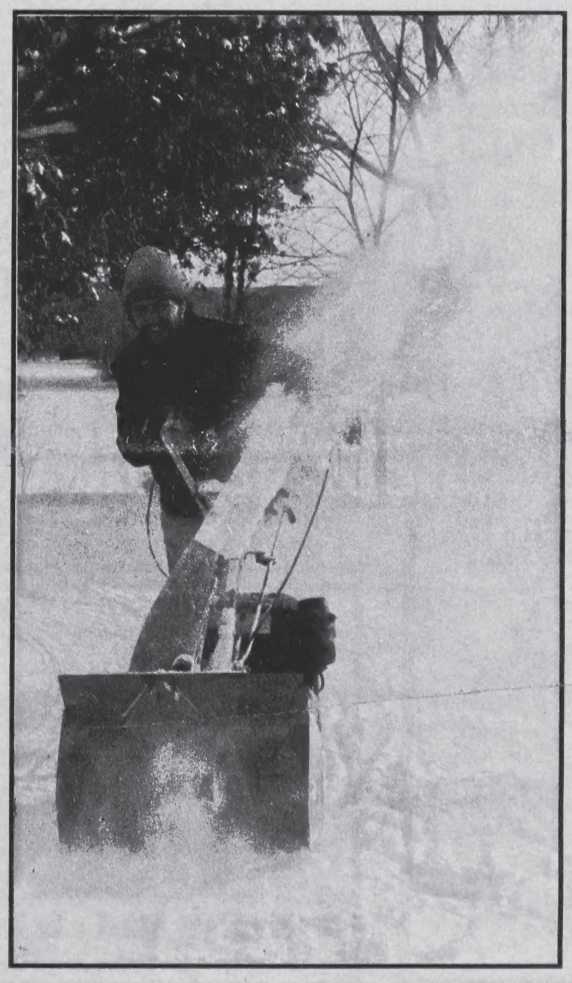
"Every organization in society — the private sector has already had to do this — is being forced to re-think how they operate to become more cost-effective ... They have to restructure the way they offer services," Hodgson said Saturday, three days after Eves' economic statement in the Legislature.

Eves acknowledged the "human cost" the spending cuts will exact across the province over the coming years as the Tories try to balance their budget.

But the price would be higher, if the province's present deficit situation was left as is, he said.

See FEW page 3

WINTER JUMPS THE GUN



by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Winter may not officially begin for close to three weeks, but don't try to pass that off on any of the Highlanders who spent last Tuesday morning digging out from under 35 centimetres of snow.

Add to that 18 other days in November when there were measurable amounts of snow — more than two tenths of a centimetre — and people can be forgiven for believing winter has arrived a bit too early.

"It's certainly been the hardest winter this fall," says Haliburton's resident weather watcher, Jim Elstone. "It's the old story: The first day of winter and the first winter's day don't always equate to be the same thing."

For those who go by the calendar, the first day of winter won't actually arrive until December 22.

But for those who go by what's piled up in their driveways, overflowing from their satellite dishes and covering their cars almost every morning, winter's here.

The 35-cm dump of snow that fell on the Highlands over 25 hours last Monday and Tuesday wasn't a

See ALTHOUGH page 2

DIGGING THEIR WAY OUT: Last Tuesday's big snow storm gave people lots to do. Top, Eric Smith uses his snowblower to be able to leave his Hwy. 121 home. Just a few kilometres east, Dysart road crews clear off the abundance of snow.

HALIBURTON TIMBER MART
Helping you build better since 1968

5148 County Road 21, Haliburton
Phone: 705-457-2510
Toll Free 1-877-425-5862
www.haliburtonlumber.com
sales@haliburtonlumber.com

AIR MILES.
NAPOLEON

Napoleon fireplaces, stoves and inserts are built to provide high quality, lifetime use and keep you warm & safe.

FRESH POSSIBILITIES

From cozy winter escapes to year-round havens and breathtaking waterfront homes - the winter season offers new opportunities for everyone.

3475 Gelert Road $550,000

Discover the perfect harmony of privacy and convenience in this beautifully appointed cabin-style retreat, complete with a spacious loft. Nestled between Minden and Haliburton, this property offers the serenity of the forest while keeping you close to everyday amenities, the sought-after 5-lake chain, and easy access to Snowdon Park for endless outdoor adventures.

2 | 2.1 ACRES

2 | MLS# X12583360

Growler Lake
$1,488,000
MLS X12236651
4 | 5

Gelert Road
$315,000
MLS X12267121
1 | 2

Buckslide Road
$825,000
MLS X12457432
3 | 5

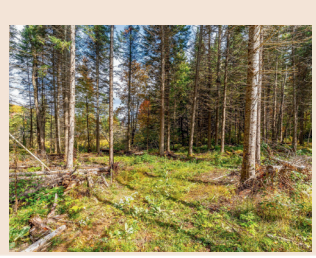
Haliburton Lake
$925,000
MLS X12484360
2 | 3

Kawartha Lakes
$1,479,000
MLS X12182250
3 | 3

Vacant Land

Endless Possibilities

Eagle Lake Area
Basshaunt Lake Rd
$85,000
MLS X12443370
2.19 acres



Now Sold
Penzance Trail
$109,000
MLS X12440835
11.71 acres

SCAN TO SEE THE LISTINGS

contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca
(705) 457-3461

7 DYSART AVE. P.O. BOX 1086
HALIBURTON ON K0M1S0

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH BAUMGARTNER REALTY
Brokerage - independently owned and operated